

## STORY 80.

THE STRICTLY REGULATED LIFE OF A MUSLIM  
LIVING ON THE MINIMUM OF MONEY.

ABUL FATEH KHAZMI was a learned man in the time of Sultan Saryar. The Sultan held him in high esteem for his great scholarship and piety. In his old age the scholar took to seclusion and not see anybody. The Sultan fearing lest he should suffer from want, sent him a large sum of money with the request, that he would be very much obliged if he would put the money to his use.

The scholar returned the money saying "My yearly expenses amount to not more than five rupees. In the morning I need only two loaves of bread which suffice for the whole day and thrice in a week I need a little meat. At present I have fifteen rupees which may last me more than three years. If I survive after this period then I expect that the same God who has supplied my needs up to this moment will look after me. I thank the Sultan for his consideration but I hope he will excuse me from the irksome task of looking after this money."

## STORY 81.

HOW MALIK SHAH LISTENED TO A POOR WOMAN  
AND REDRESSED HER WRONG.

ONCE during his tour in his extensive dominions Malik shah came to a certain village where he halted for the night. His soldiers slaughtered a cow belonging to a widow who was the mother of three children whom she supported on the milk of the cow.

When the widow heard this she was very much distressed. She could not fight the soldiers, nor did she know any one to whom she might turn for help. At last after much thought she came to the conclusion that she should approach the Sultan himself. Somehow she learnt that he would pass along a certain road when he went out hunting. She took her stand on the bridge which spans Zinda-Road a perennial stream flowing by Isfahan.

She had not long to wait, for the king came at the very time she had been told. When he drew near her she mustered up courage and addressed him thus: "O Son of Alparstan! Will you redress my wrong here or on the Bridge which divides Heaven from Hell." The courtiers who accompanied the Sultan were amazed at the old woman's audacity. But the king was struck by this strange question. He came down from his horse and addressing the old woman said